United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1731
16 September 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Eight more UNOMIL military observers freed in Liberia, leaving ten unaccounted for; United Nations evacuates some staff from Monrovia.

* Secretary-General travels from Beijing to Shanghai; to conclude China visit and depart for Tokyo tomorrow.

* Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) closes five border crossings used by UNHCR convoys bound for Bosnian enclaves; NATO agrees to extend close air support into part of Croatia bordering Bihac pocket.

* WFP to supply 100,000 metric tons of food aid to 1.3 million Iraqis over next six months; expands emergency assistance to 500,000 people in Republic of Georgia.

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All but 10 of the 43 United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) military observers detained last week have now been accounted for and are out of the country. A United Nations spokesman said two observers were being held in Ganta, while the remaining eight were in Tapetta. He said the Organization had no information on their condition and was very concerned about them.

Meanwhile, six non-governmental organization aid workers were being protected by the Military Observer Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG) in a camp between Cacata and Monrovia. The United Nations has evacuated some of its staff from Liberia as a safety measure, leaving 19 in the capital city.

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Nearing the end of his visit to the People's Republic of China, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today travelled from Beijing to Shanghai. He visited the Pudong area -- a high-technology enterprise zone established with the participation of the World Bank -- and met with the Mayor of Shanghai, Huang Ju, who hosted a dinner in his honour.

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Tomorrow, the Secretary-General will have discussions with Chinese intellectuals and other individuals interested in foreign policy. He will then leave China for an overnight stay in Tokyo, and will return to New York the following day.

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The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has closed five of the six border crossings into Bosnia and Herzegovina used by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), according to a spokesman for the Organization. The UNHCR had formally protested to the Federal Republic about the obstruction of convoys bound for the Bosnian enclaves.

Meanwhile, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has informed the Secretary-General that it has agreed to extend close air support into the region of Croatia bordering the Bihac pocket.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has announced that it will supply more than 100,000 metric tons of food to 1.3 million people seriously affected by food shortages in Iraq. Half of the food needed has already been pledged by the United States, Germany and Sweden, and the WFP has urged donors to meet the shortfall and accelerate food deliveries to avert further suffering. It has also appealed for a total of $33.6 million to cover the cost of the six-month operation.

Living conditions for most of the Iraqi civilian population have been extremely precarious since the Persian Gulf war. Prices of basic food commodities have more than tripled in the last two years and are beyond the reach of the poor. Malnutrition has increased, particularly among women and children. Between March 1991 and June 1994, the WFP delivered about 290,000 tonnes of food to vulnerable groups, internally displaced and destitute people throughout Iraq.

Meanwhile, the WFP has expanded its emergency assistance to the Republic of Georgia to feed almost 500,000 people suffering as a result of civil strife, political instability and economic upheaval. It will provide more than 41,000 tons of food to people at risk of malnutrition and even starvation, at a cost of $21 million.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1732
19 September 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General welcomes news that military intervention in Haiti has been averted; United Nations to begin deployment of military observers later this week.

+ General Assembly, concluding forty-eighth session, establishes United Nations Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement on Friday, welcomes steps taken by President of El Salvador to ensure full compliance with Peace Accords; reaffirms need to scrupulously observe police and public security provisions.

+ Rwanda to hold Security Council Presidency for December following suspension of operation of provisional rule of procedure.

+ Secretary-General welcomes signing of agreement on temporary cease-fire by Tajik Government and opposition.

+ Heavy fighting in Sarajevo subsides after UNPROFOR warns Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serbs that it will take appropriate action to keep peace.

+ Donors to United Nations Action Plan for Sarajevo to meet in Vienna on Tuesday.

+ Last of 43 UNOMIL military observers detained in Liberia now free; 6 NGO aid workers also released.

+ UNICEF deplores killing of staff member by gunmen in Egypt on Saturday; says attack was not directed against United Nations.

+ Economic and Social Council suspends roster status of International Lesbian and Gay Association.

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For information media--not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today welcomed the news that a military intervention had been averted in Haiti and that conditions had been created for the peaceful implementation of Security Council resolution 940 (1994). He expressed the hope that a secure and stable environment would soon be established through cooperation between the Haitian military authorities and the Multinational Force. He also looked forward to the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and to the resumption of international aid to help rebuild Haiti.

An advance group of 16 United Nations military observers will be dispatched to Haiti later this week, pursuant to resolution 940 (1994). They will be drawn from Argentina, Bangladesh, France, Ireland, Malaysia and New Zealand, according to a spokesman for the Organization. Another 44 observers will be dispatched in 10 days. Meanwhile, the Secretary-General is considering the early redeployment of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH).

* * *

The General Assembly today concluded its forty-eighth session by establishing the United Nations Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) for an initial period of six months. The Assembly also authorized an allocation of $7.5 million to fund the Mission.

In a closing statement, President S.R. Insanally (Guyana) said the Assembly had been remarkably active in the past year. Not only were the issues on its agenda comprehensive, but the pace of its work had increased. Now that the constraints of the cold war had been removed, the Assembly could play its proper role in international affairs. However, he stressed that it must continue to seriously examine its methods and procedures to ensure that they were efficient and effective.

During the forty-eighth session, the Assembly adopted more than 330 resolutions, and considered more than 180 items, according to a United Nations spokesman. At present, 178 names are inscribed on the list of speakers for the general debate in the forty-ninth session, including 39 heads of state, 18 prime ministers and two crown princes.

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The Security Council has welcomed steps taken by the President of El Salvador to ensure compliance with outstanding provisions of the country's Peace Accords. In a statement read out by President Juan Antonio Yanez-Barnuevo (Spain) on Friday, the Council reaffirmed the need for the police and public security provisions of the Accords to be scrupulously observed, under the verification of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

The Council said it expected the Government of El Salvador to accelerate the demobilization of the National Police. It shared the Secretary-General's concern regarding the limited progress of the land-transfer programme, delays

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and distortions in other reintegration programmes and the unresolved problem of human settlements resulting from the conflict. The Council called on States and international institutions to contribute generously in support of those programmes.

The Council reiterated the need for full implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Truth. It also welcomed the unanimous election of an independent Supreme Court of Justice as an important step in the reform of the judicial system.

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The Security Council has decided to allow Rwanda to hold the Council Presidency for December. In a statement read out by President Juan Antonio Yañez Barnuevo (Spain) on Friday, the Council said it was suspending the operation of rule 18 of its Provisional Rules of Procedure, which calls for the monthly alphabetical rotation of the Presidency. That rotation will resume in January 1995 with the Council member whose name follows the United States in English alphabetical order.

The Council had previously suspended rule 18 last month, allowing the Presidency to be held by Spain for September, ahead of Rwanda.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the conclusion by the Tajik parties of an agreement on a temporary cease-fire. The agreement was signed yesterday in Tehran by the First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, A. Dostiev, and the Head of the opposition delegation, A. Torajonzodah, through the good offices of Special Envoy Ramiro Piriz-Ballon. It establishes a temporary cessation of hostilities on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside Tajikistan until a referendum on a new constitution and presidential elections are held.

The Secretary-General described the agreement as an important step towards the restoration of peace and national reconciliation in Tajikistan. He said he would bring the matter urgently to the attention of the Security Council to enable the deployment of the United Nations observers necessary for the agreement to come into effect.

* * *

Serious fighting broke out around Sarajevo yesterday after Bosnian Government forces launched an attack supported by heavy mortar fire from within the city. Bosnian Serb forces responded with a range of weapons, and later bombarded the city with three heavy mortars removed from a checkpoint manned by French United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops.

Fighting died down after the UNPROFOR Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, warned both sides that he would take appropriate action to deal with the situation. He said that they had

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contravened Security Council resolution 836 (1993), breached the Airport Agreement of 9 February, and violated the 20-kilometer exclusion zone around Sarajevo, and that civilians in the city had been endangered. He also summoned representatives of both sides to a meeting at the airport.

* * *

The first conference of major donors on the United Nations Action Plan for Sarajevo will take place in Vienna tomorrow. The conference will bring together Governments and other donors, as well as United Nations agencies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations involved in carrying out the Plan. It will be chaired by William Eagleton, Special Coordinator for Sarajevo.

The conference will review progress on the implementation of the Action Plan, discuss priorities for future work and assess the funding situation. It will be the first major meeting of donors since the Pledging Conference held in New York in June, which raised $75 million for the restoration of Sarajevo.

* * *

The last 10 of the 43 United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) military observers detained earlier this month were released over the weekend, according to a spokesman for the Organization. In addition, six non-governmental organization aid workers were allowed to leave the camp where they had been protected by the Military Observer Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG). All of the detainees are now safely in Monrovia or Abidjan.

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The Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), James Grant, has deplored the killing of a UNICEF consultant, Labib Ibrahim, in an attack by a militant group near Luxor, Egypt, on Saturday. Mr. Ibrahim and four other UNICEF staff members were travelling in an unmarked car to the opening of a health centre at Qena when gunmen opened fire on their police escort. At least two bullets hit the UNICEF car, killing Mr. Ibrahim and grazing a colleague.

UNICEF said that it appeared as if the police escort was the intended target, and that the incident should not be characterized as an attack on the United Nations.

* * *

The Economic and Social Council has authorized its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to hold an intersessional meeting to inquire whether any International Lesbian and Gay Association member promotes or condones paedophilia. The Council took that action by adopting a resolution submitted by the United States at a special session on Friday.

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The resolution stated that paedophilia was contrary to international human rights standards and to the spirit, purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. Pending a review by its Non-Governmental Organization Committee, the Council suspended the roster status of the Association. Roster status indicates that the Council considers an organization could make occasional or useful contributions to its work or the work of its subsidiary bodies or other United Nations bodies within their competence.

The Council also decided to consider reinstating the Association's roster status, based on an appropriate recommendation by the Non-Governmental Organization Committee, and on the Association's provision of convincing assurances that neither it, its members nor subsidiaries promoted, condoned or sought legalization of paedophilia.

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United Nations

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Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1733
20 September 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly, beginning forty-ninth session, elects Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) as President.

+ Secretary-General expresses regret at resignation of Dante Caputo as Special Envoy for Haiti.

+ Secretary-General welcomes General Assembly's establishment of MINUGUA; Mission Director Leonardo Franco arrives in Guatemala with advance team.

+ Under-Secretary-General Annan and General Baril visit UNAMIR contingents in Rwanda; UNOMUR formally terminated.

+ Special Representative Akashi and UNPROFOR Force Commander meet with Contact Group on former Yugoslavia in Zagreb.

+ Member States owe United Nations $2.77 billion as of 15 September; $824 million owed to regular budget and $1.95 billion to peace-keeping.

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The General Assembly today began its forty-ninth session by electing Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) as President by acclamation. In his address, Mr. Essy called for a reaffirmation of the fundamental principles which inspired the establishment of the United Nations in 1945. The Assembly must gauge the expectations, hopes and needs of the world's peoples and provide answers to complex and interrelated challenges.

The new President noted that the world had been plagued by civil wars since the end of the cold war. Out of 82 conflicts in recent years, 79 had been internal ones. Conflicts in the former Yugosalavia and Rwanda had led to ethnic cleansing and even genocide, while intolerance and xenophobia had risen elsewhere. The world also had to cope with such problems as environmental degradation, urban violence, drugs, unemployment, famine and uncontrolled

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For information media--not an official record

population growth. However, he continued, there were also grounds for optimism, citing recent developments in the Middle East, South Africa, Northern Ireland and Haiti.

Mr. Essy stressed the importance of the United Nations role in promoting sustainable development. Many developing countries were burdened with heavy debt repayments, while other countries were experiencing donor fatigue. Despite negative images of Africa, the crisis of the past decade could be reversed. The continent was regaining its confidence, and its leaders were reaffirming their responsibility for their people. The international community should not yield to disenchantment, but should help Africans design their own solutions to their problems.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed deep regret at the resignation of Dante Caputo as Special Envoy for Haiti. In accepting Mr. Caputo's resignation yesterday, the Secretary-General paid tribute to the courage and devotion which he had shown while carrying out his duties.

A United Nations spokesman today said that finding a replacement for Mr. Caputo was a very high priority for the Secretary-General. He noted that the Special Envoy oversaw both the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) and the International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH).

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the General Assembly's establishment yesterday of the Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). He stressed that the Guatemalan parties should heed the Assembly's call for a vigorous process of negotiation, as accepted in the Framework Agreement on a Timetable for the Negotiation of a Firm and Lasting Peace in Guatemala. Human rights verification must be set in the context of wider efforts to end the conflict and to promote the rule of law through the negotiating process, under United Nations auspices.

The Secretary-General appointed Leonardo Franco as Director of the Mission. Mr. Franco, an Argentinian national, is currently the Director of International Protection in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He will head an advance team arriving in Guatemala today.

* * *

The Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Kofi Annan, and the Secretary-General's Military Adviser, General Maurice Baril, today visited peace-keepers serving with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). A United Nations spokesman said they also consulted with representatives of non-governmental organizations regarding the situation of Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire.

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Mr. Annan and General Baril also attended a ceremony in Uganda marking the conclusion of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR), which was established last June.

* * *

The Contact Group on the former Yugoslavia today met in Zagreb for the first time, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Group had talks with Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and the Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), General Bertrand de Lapresle. It was due to meet with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman this evening, and with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade tomorrow.

The UNPROFOR Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, and UNPROFOR civilian official Victor Andreev travelled to Pale today for talks with Bosnian Serb leaders. They discussed the restoration of utilities in Sarajevo and the heavy fighting in the northern part of the city over the weekend. More cease-fire violations were reported there today, and there was heavy military activity elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Bihac.

* * *

As of 15 September, Member States owed the United Nations a total of $2.77 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, $824 million was for assessments for the regular budget and $1.95 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed $531 million to the regular budget. It owed $644 million in peace-keeping contributions, having made a payment of $335 million on 1 September. The Russian Federation owed $28 million to the regular budget and $569 million to peace-keeping.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1734
21 September 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

• Secretary-General recommends that Security Council extend UNPROFOR mandate for six months; says Force may have to be withdrawn from Bosnia and Herzegovina if arms embargo against Bosnian Government is lifted.

• Secretary-General proposes one-month extension of UNOSOM II mandate; says coming weeks will be crucial for reconciliation process and United Nations involvement in Somalia.

• Under-Secretary-General Annan reports spirit of change in Somalia; warns factions that Security Council will not tolerate further delays in political process.

• Secretary-General recommends that UNAVEM II mandate be extended to 30 November, citing hope for comprehensive peace settlement in Angola.

• General Assembly elects 21 Vice-Presidents and appoints 9 members of Credentials Committee; Main Committees elect chairmen.

• United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Haiti seeks support for existing relief networks in country; up to $555 million in aid will be needed in coming year.

• Secretary-General pays tribute to UNOMUR personnel and Ugandan Government as Mission is terminated.

• International Convention on Nuclear Safety opens for signature at IAEA General Conference in Vienna.

• UNCTAD Trade and Development Board begins autumn session in Geneva; to consider 1994 Trade and Development Report.

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The mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) should be extended for six months, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council dated 17 September, he

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said that in the absence of an overall political settlement, the Force's activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina were invaluable. UNPROFOR played an effective role as an impartial force and represented the principles and aims of the United Nations Charter. It supported humanitarian operations, facilitated local cease-fires and promoted reconciliation between the communities.

However, the Secretary-General said that he had directed that plans be finalized for UNPROFOR's withdrawal from Bosnia and Herzegovina at short notice. He warned that the use of "disincentives" -- such as the stricter enforcement of exclusion zones around safe areas -- or the lifting of the arms embargo against the Bosnian Government would create unacceptable risks for the Force. The former action would place it unambiguously on one side of an ongoing conflict, while the latter would fan the flames that the United Nations sought to extinguish. At least 60 days would be needed to arrange a withdrawal, and extra ground forces might be needed temporarily for protection.

In Croatia, the Secretary-General continued, UNPROFOR had been prevented from fully implementing its mandate. However, it had secured respect for the cease-fire agreement, which had held for six months. It was also trying to create a basis for the reopening of negotiations between the parties and for the voluntary return of displaced persons. While there was a risk that the Force's continued presence would contribute to the maintenance of an unsatisfactory status quo, a precipitate withdrawal from Croatia could jeopardize hopes for progress there and in the former Yugoslavia as a whole.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proposed that the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) be extended for one month. In a report to the Security Council dated 17 September, he said the end of this month would be a crucial time for the national reconciliation process and for United Nations involvement in Somalia. With the cooperation of the parties and the help of UNOSOM II, a Hawiye peace conference and the preparatory meeting for the National Reconciliation Conference could be convened.

The Secretary-General noted that the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Kofi Annan, had recently reviewed the situation on the ground in Somalia. In view of that undertaking and current developments, he said he would assess the prospects for national reconciliation and make recommendations regarding UNOSOM II's future in the second part of his report in mid-October.

* * *

Having visited Somalia from 15 to 19 September, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations Kofi Annan today said that a new spirit of change and seriousness had emerged there. Nevertheless, he warned all Somalis, and

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particularly the faction leaders, that neither the Security Council nor the international community would tolerate any further delays in the political process.

The Somali people were tired of conflict, especially inter-clan fighting, Mr. Annan told correspondents in Nairobi. He was encouraged that the various factions had already begun consultations with a view to convening a meeting to prepare for a National Reconciliation Conference next month. However, without significant progress towards reconciliation and the formation of a broad-based government, the Council would have no alternative but to terminate the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) be extended to 30 November, in the hope of a successful conclusion to the ongoing peace process. In a report to the Security Council dated 17 September, he said the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) could resolve all outstanding issues in the Lusaka peace talks by the end of September. Extra efforts and true statesmanship would be needed to capitalize on UNITA's recent acceptance of proposals on national reconciliation.

The Secretary-General said the Security Council should remain ready to increase UNAVEM II's strength to its previous levels in the event of a comprehensive settlement. He also expressed concern regarding the persistent fighting in Angola, and attacks against international relief personnel. He urged the parties, in particular UNITA, to cooperate fully with the United Nations in that regard.

* * *

Beginning its forty-ninth session yesterday, the General Assembly elected a new President, Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire), and 21 Vice-Presidents, and appointed nine members of the Credentials Committee. The Assembly's six Main Committees also elected their chairmen.

The Vice-Presidents of the Assembly are: Armenia, Austria, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Fiji, France, Guinea-Bissau, India, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sudan, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay. The members of the Credentials Committee are: China, Fiji, Honduras, Namibia, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Suriname, Togo and the United States.

The Chairmen of the Main Committees are: Luis Valencia-Rodriguez (Ecuador), First Committee (Disarmament and International Security); Sher Afgan Khan (Pakistan), Second Committee (Economic and Financial); Kéba Birane Cissé (Senegal), Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural); Borys Hudyma (Ukraine), Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization);

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Adrien Teirlinck (Belgium), Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary); and George O. Lamptey (Ghana), Sixth Committee (Legal).

The Assembly also took note of a letter from the Secretary-General to the President regarding Member States in arrears in the payment of financial contributions to the United Nations. It stated that, under Article 19 of the Charter, a Member whose arrears equals or exceeds the amount due from it for the preceding two full years shall have no vote in the Assembly.

* * *

The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Haiti, Ross Mountain, has underlined the need for support for existing humanitarian networks in the country. He said non-governmental organizations -- particularly Haitian ones -- were essential to the humanitarian relief programme there. He stressed the importance of coordinating humanitarian activities in Haiti, and noted that organizations working there had already established committees to cover the provision of health services, food and water.

Mr. Mountain said the next three months would be crucial to Haiti's recovery. Humanitarian agencies have estimated that the country will need from $450 million to $555 million in aid over the next year. They have also urged that sanctions against Haiti be lifted immediately.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has paid tribute to the personnel of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR), which has just been formally closed down. In a report to the Security Council dated 19 September, he also thanked the Ugandan Government for its cooperation with the Mission.

The Secretary-General said that while UNOMUR had been unable to create an atmosphere conducive to a negotiated settlement of the conflict in Rwanda, it had played a useful role as a confidence-building mechanism following the conclusion of the Arusha peace agreement in August 1993. It had also supported the deployment of the expanded United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) and the coordination of humanitarian relief activities there.

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The International Convention on Nuclear Safety was opened for signature yesterday at the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna. Thirty-eight States signed the Convention, which is the first legal instrument to directly address the safety of nuclear power plants worldwide.

The Convention applies to land-based civil nuclear power plants and obliges Contracting Parties to establish and maintain proper legislative and

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regulatory frameworks to govern safety. Signatories commit themselves to applying fundamental safety principles for nuclear installations, and agree to participate in periodic peer review meetings.

The Convention will remain open for signature throughout the IAEA General Conference this week and at IAEA headquarters until its entry into force. It will enter into force ninety days after the twenty-second instrument of ratification is deposited with the IAEA, including the instruments of 17 States with critical nuclear reactors.

* * *

The 138-member Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has begun its autumn session in Geneva. The Board has before it the 1994 Trade and Development Report. Between now and 30 September, it will discuss elements of successful growth and adjustment strategies, and consider the outcome of the Uruguay Round of trade talks.

The Board will also discuss trade and the environment, and the quest for sustainable development. It will examine the impact of environmental policies on export competitiveness and market access.

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United Nations

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Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1735
22 September 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council welcomes signing of Agreement on provisional cease-fire by Tajik Government and opposition.

+ NATO aircraft hit Bosnian Serb tank in Sarajevo exclusion zone after several attacks on UNPROFOR peace-keepers.

+ General Committee recommends 158-item agenda for forty-ninth session of General Assembly.

+ Secretary-General receives President of Ireland at Headquarters; expresses confidence regarding prospects for peace in Northern Ireland.

+ Advance team of 12 UNMIH military observers to leave New York for Haiti tomorrow; Department of Humanitarian Affairs team to arrive in country on Saturday.

+ United States provides five-member team to investigate serious violations of international humanitarian law in Rwanda.

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The Security Council today welcomed the Agreement on a provisional cease-fire signed by the Government of Tajikistan and the Tajik opposition in Tehran on 17 September. The agreement was concluded through the good offices of Special Envoy Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, and with the assistance of Iran, the Russian Federation and other countries acting as observers at the inter-Tajik talks. The parties agreed to a provisional cessation of hostilities on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside Tajikistan, assisted by United Nations military observers.

In a statement read out by its President, Juan Antonio Yanez-Barnuevo (Spain), the Council emphasized the need for the parties to meet their obligations under the Agreement, including strict observance of the cease-fire. It expressed the hope that the third round of inter-Tajik talks in Islamabad would further consolidate progress towards a political settlement. The Council reaffirmed its full support for the efforts of the

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Secretary-General and his Special Envoy to promote political dialogue between the parties. It also noted the request of the parties for United Nations support for the Agreement, and invited the Secretary-General to urgently present his views and recommendations regarding that request.

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North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) aircraft this afternoon destroyed a Bosnian Serb tank within the Sarajevo heavy-weapons exclusion zone after United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) peace-keepers were fired on several times earlier in the day. The Bosnian Serbs had been warned that NATO air power would be used as a result of the deliberate attacks on UNPROFOR and continuing violations of the exclusion zone.

The first attack on peace-keepers took place this morning in downtown Sarajevo, when one round was fired at a French anti-sniper team. A French armoured personnel carrier subsequently came under fire at the Bratstva Bridge. Bosnian Serb forces later fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a French armoured car, seriously wounding the driver.

The UNPROFOR Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, warned that all future attacks on UNPROFOR peace-keepers would be met with the appropriate and proportional use of military force.

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The General Committee has recommended that the forty-ninth General Assembly adopt an agenda consisting of 158 items. It recommended that the following new items be considered directly in plenary session: the report of the International Tribunal on serious violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia; commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War; and observer status for the South Pacific Forum in the General Assembly.

The Committee did not recommend that the Assembly take up a proposed new item entitled "Consideration of the exceptional situation of the Republic of China in Taiwan in the international context, based on the principle of universality and in accordance with the established model of parallel representation of divided countries at the United Nations." The Committee recommended that an item on the situation in the occupied territories of Croatia be allocated to the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization), and that the question of criteria for the granting of observer status in the Assembly be allocated to the Sixth Committee (Legal).

The provisional agenda, as well as the Committee's recommendations for the allocation of items among the Assembly and its Main Committees, will go before the Assembly tomorrow.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today received the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, at Headquarters. President Robinson informed him about her forthcoming visit to East Africa, including Rwanda, and they discussed the situation in that country. The Secretary-General thanked her for Ireland's continuing support for United Nations peace-keeping operations, and expressed confidence that recent developments in Northern Ireland would lead to peace there.

President Robinson was later scheduled to deliver a closing statement at the Department of Public Information's forty-seventh annual conference for non-governmental organizations. The theme for the conference was "We the Peoples: Building Peace."

* * *

An advance team of 12 military observers for the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) was briefed today at Headquarters prior to its departure for Port-au-Prince tomorrow. The team will observe the operations of the multinational force in Haiti and report on implementation of Security Council resolution 940 (1994). It consists of four military observers from Bangladesh, two from France, two from Ireland and four from New Zealand, and will be joined next week by two observers from Argentina and two from Guatemala.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Haiti, Ross Mountain, reported problems of access in parts of the country. However, he expressed hope that the situation would improve very quickly. Senior United Nations and United States officials met today to discuss the question of coordinating and expanding humanitarian efforts. In a related development, a team from the Department of Humanitarian Affairs will arrive in Haiti on Saturday.

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A five-member investigative team has arrived in Rwanda to gather evidence of violations of international humanitarian law, including genocide, committed since April. The United States provided the team in response to the announcement by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, of a $10.5 million plan to expand operations there. The team, which includes investigators and legal experts, is led by Stephen Mansfield from the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles.

The investigative team will work within the framework of the human rights field operation in Rwanda. Under the authority of the High Commissioner, it will interview witnesses and gather documentary and other evidence of grave violations of international humanitarian law.

The arrival of the team brings to 25 the number of human rights field officers currently working out of the Human Rights Field Office in Kigali. Several Member States, including Finland, Germany and Spain, have indicated that they will send experts to Rwanda shortly.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1736
23 September 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- General Assembly adopts 158-item agenda for forty-ninth session, including new item on situation in occupied territories of Croatia.
- Secretary-General, addressing United Nations staff, stresses need for clarity of vision and new culture of commitment within Organization.
- United Nations appeals for $61 million to provide humanitarian aid to 3.6 million Angolans through December.
- Special Representative Akashi urges major donors to Sarajevo action plan to seek imaginative ways of improving conditions in city.
- Mozambican election campaign begins officially, with 81 per cent of electorate registered to vote.
- Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and Caribbean to hold sixth session in Argentina from 25 to 29 September.

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The General Assembly today adopted a 158-item agenda for its forty-ninth session. Three new items will be considered in plenary: the report of the International Tribunal on war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia; commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War; and observer status for the South Pacific Forum in the General Assembly. A new item on the situation in the occupied territories of Croatia will be considered in the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization), while another on criteria for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly will be considered in the Sixth Committee (Legal).

The Assembly also included in its current agenda an item on observer status for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) reminded the Assembly that the General Committee had decided to defer making a recommendation on the allocation of that item and the item on an Agenda for Development.

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The Assembly decided that a previous sub-agenda item on the report of the International Conference on Population and Development would be on the current agenda as a separate item. It would be considered directly in plenary, on the understanding that action would be taken in the Second Committee (Economic and Financial).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said that clarity of vision and purpose and a new culture of commitment were needed in the United Nations. He also spoke of a need for greater cohesion within the system as a whole, and for better communication between managers and staff, between the Secretariat and Member States and between the Organization and world public opinion. He made those comments in an address to United Nations staff at Headquarters.

The Secretary-General said that the international system was in a state of transition, and that the growing demands on the United Nations exceeded the means provided for meeting them. International civil servants were in the front-line of change, and it was better to adapt than to attempt to preserve old methods of approach. The Organization was under strain and under scrutiny, but its staff must continue to strive for the highest standards of service to the international community. He pledged his full support for that common effort.

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The United Nations has appealed for $61 million to provide humanitarian aid to 3.6 million Angolans suffering the effects of continued armed conflict in their country. That amount represents the estimated shortfall in funding for relief activities through December.

The World Food Programme (WFP) needs some $28 million -- the largest component of the appeal -- to provide more than 230,000 metric tons of food aid. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking $9.3 million, and smaller sums are being sought by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and other United Nations agencies.

Humanitarian activities in Angola have suffered greatly in recent months as a result of intensified fighting, problems of access in affected areas and the increased number of security incidents. Nevertheless, United Nations agencies are again operating in all provinces and have made progress in distributing food aid, providing immunizations and planning for a nation-wide agricultural campaign.

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Special Representative Yasushi Akashi has urged major donors to the United Nations action plan for Sarajevo to seek imaginative ways to improve

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conditions for the city's residents this winter. In a message to a meeting of donors in Vienna on Tuesday, he said hopes for progress towards peace and the restoration of essential services in Sarajevo had not been fully realized.

In many ways, access to the city was more difficult now than it had been in the spring, Mr. Akashi continued. He appealed to the Bosnian parties to continue to cooperate with the Special Coordinator for Sarajevo, William Eagleton, whose efforts were dedicated to restoring normal conditions in the city.

The United Nations plan for Sarajevo aims to re-establish such services as water, gas, garbage removal, electricity and education, in accordance with Security Council resolution 900 (1994).

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The campaign for Mozambique's national elections on 27 and 28 October officially began yesterday, according to a United Nations spokesman. Almost 6.4 million voters -- 81 per cent of the electorate -- have been registered, and all of the presidential candidates have signed a code of conduct for the elections.

Meanwhile, the new Mozambican Defence Force (FADM) has been formed, with a strength of 12,000 troops. That action followed the demobilization of the Mozambican Armed Forces (FAM) and the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO) forces. Some 106,000 weapons were collected from the demobilized troops, and another 42,000 from paramilitary elements.

In a presidential statement on 7 September, the Security Council expressed cautious optimism that Mozambique would achieve democracy, lasting peace and responsible representative government. It reiterated its intention to endorse the results of the elections provided that voting was free and fair.

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The sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean will be held at Mar del Plata, Argentina, from 25 to 29 September. The Conference, which is being organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), will serve as a regional preparatory meeting for the 1995 World Conference on Women. It will be opened by President Carlos Menem of Argentina.

The Conference will evaluate the situation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and approve a Regional Action Programme for 1995-2001. Topics for discussion will include economic and social participation, health, education, and violence against women.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1737
26 September 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ President of United States, addressing opening meeting of General Assembly's general debate, calls on Secretary-General to set up working group to revitalize United Nations; announces lifting of unilateral sanctions against Haiti.

+ President of Russian Federation proposes new solid system of security, based on cooperation and reform of international institutions; says newly independent States must respect human rights of Russian citizens.

+ Brazilian Foreign Minister proposes convening of United Nations conference to integrate initiatives and programmes for development.

+ President of Mexico says new protectionist trends are hurting developing countries; stresses importance of World Trade Organization.

+ President of Côte d'Ivoire proposes that General Assembly proclaim 1995 international year of univeral solidarity.

+ Finnish Foreign Minister urges Member States to promptly pay United Nations assessments and arrears in full.

+ Algeria's Foreign Minister says Non-Aligned Movement and Group of 77 are more committed than ever to collective efforts for peace and prosperity.

+ Security Council, in resolutions adopted on Friday, demands that Bosnian Serbs cease campaign of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Herzegovina; imposes broad sanctions on Serb-controlled areas in Republic; allows for suspension of some sanctions against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

+ Secretary-General, in meeting with United States President, announces appointment of Lakhdar Brahimi as Special Representative for Haiti.

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For information media--not an official record

+ Secretary-General says Commission of Experts will thoroughly investigate allegations of recent massacres in Rwanda.

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United States President William Clinton today called on the Secretary-General to establish a working group to prepare a concrete action plan to revitalize the United Nations. Such a plan would enable the Organization to address the security, economic and political challenges of the next 50 years, he told the General Assembly as it began its general debate. He underlined the need for ready, efficient and capable peace-keeping forces, and said the United States would pay $1.2 billion to United Nations accounts.

President Clinton stressed that the first duty of every Member State was to look after the security and welfare of its own citizens. When its national security interests were threatened, the United States would act with others if it could, but alone if it must; it would use diplomacy when it could, but force if it must. The United States had no desire to be the world's policeman, but would do what it could to promote freedom and democracy.

In Haiti, the United States had demonstrated that it would lead a multinational force when its interests were plain, when the cause was right, when the mission was achievable, and when the international community stood with it. He announced that the United States was suspending all unilateral sanctions against Haiti except those affecting the military leaders and their immediate supporters, and urged other States to do likewise.

United Nations actions in Bosnia and Herzegovina demonstrated that progress could be made when a coalition backed up diplomacy with military power, the President continued. However, the situation around Sarajevo had deteriorated in recent weeks and the city faced the prospect of strangulation. The Organization must show a new resolve to enforce its resolutions to save Sarajevo. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) stood ready to act, he concluded.

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The President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, today said his country had been undergoing profound changes, but remained a great Power ready to cooperate with the world community. In an address to the General Assembly, he called for a new solid system of security, based on cooperation and the reform of international institutions. Such a system would respond to new conditions and function under the auspices of the United Nations.

President Yeltsin proposed that negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty be speeded up. The Russian Federation would be ready to sign that treaty next year, when the United Nations was celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. It was also necessary to further develop measures on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Security Council could

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hold a special meeting at the foreign-minister level to coordinate security guarantees for non-nuclear States. The five nuclear Powers should develop a treaty on nuclear security and strategic stability.

The Russian President stressed the importance of regional programmes to strengthen peace and security. It was also necessary to address the economic and social problems resulting from the end of the arms race, particularly those related to the elimination of chemical and bacteriological weapons. He called attention to the situation of millions of Russians in the newly independent States. Those States had to demonstrate their commitment to human rights, and neither a selective approach nor double standards were permissible.

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Brazil's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Celso Luiz Nunes Amorim, told the General Assembly today that his country firmly supported diplomatic efforts to resolve the Haitian crisis. Those efforts must lead to the peaceful removal of the de facto authorities and the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He expressed concern that the principles of self-determination and non-intervention were the object of interpretations which were incompatible with the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS). Brazil also sought to bring Cuba fully into the international fold through dialogue and rapprochement. Political and economic isolation was unjustifiable, and only aggravated the hardships of the Cuban people.

Mr. Amorim went on to call for a profound reformulation of the United Nations role in promoting development. Peace and development constituted an indivisible whole, and required comprehensive and coordinated consideration. He proposed the convening of a United Nations conference on development, possibly in 1996, which would integrate initiatives and programmes to promote human dignity and well-being. Brazil also supported the strengthening of the role of the General Assembly and the expansion of the Security Council.

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The President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, today told the General Assembly that the major challenges of the current era stemmmed from profound complexities in the economic and political spheres. The answers did not lie in weapons, but in the will to build consensus; not in imposition, but in the ability to coordinate development policies within a framework of fair competition. Mexico had turned an armed challenge in Chiapas last January into political dialogue within 10 days; it had listened carefully to the voices of the poor and committed itself to solving their problems through political dialogue and in freedom.

The international community must be wary of new protectionist trends, the Mexican President continued. Many developing countries were experiencing deteriorating terms of trade and instability in interest rates. The challenge was to eliminate conditions that impeded the free circulation of goods and

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services. The present opening of markets to competition must be consolidated, and no instrument would be of greater assistance in attaining that goal than the launching of the World Trade Organization.

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President Henri Konan Bedié of Côte d'Ivoire said today that the frontiers of poverty in Africa would only recede if the United Nations reworked the machinery for international cooperation. He told the General Assembly that efforts to establish greater justice in international economic results had not produced success. Instead, there had been an exponential increase in the gap between developed and developing countries, and an economic crisis in Africa since the beginning of the 1980s

President Bedié called for greater solidarity between North and South, and a genuine partnership in an international economy of sharing. He proposed that the Assembly proclaim 1995 as the international year of univeral solidarity to help tackle the injustice of unequal development. Despite problems such as debt and and a lack of technology, and diseases such as malaria and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), Africa would succeed. As the continent best endowed with natural resources, it was determined to realize its enormous potential.

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Finland's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Heikki Haavisto, today called for a greater role for preventive measures in United Nations conflict resolution. Conflicts often erupted because of a lack of preventive action, and a misconceived faith in the Organization's readiness and ability to step in. The United Nations could not always rectify irresponsible actions and policies, nor could it be present forever in conflict areas. While the Security Council bore the primary responsibility for international peace and security, it could not act as a substitute for Member States or their Governments.

The Foreign Minister said many Member States demonstrated a lack of commitment to the United Nations, and called attention to the Organization's critical financial situation. They must change their attitude and promptly pay their assessed contributions and arrears in full, or it would be unable to function. Member States must accept strict financial discipline, and should pay interest on their arrears. Meanwhile, the United Nations must continue its administrative and financial reforms.

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Algeria's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mohamed-Salah Dembri, today said a new kind of political restructuring was needed so that the international community could face current challenges. He told the General Assembly that the Non-Aligned Movement and the "Group of 77" developing countries were more

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ready than ever to engage in an equitable partnership for a better future. Algeria was also working within the Arab Magreb Union and at the United Nations to further those collective efforts for peace and prosperity.

Algeria was involved in a national renovation, Mr. Dembri continued. There was a need to establish a pluralist society based on the implementation of social justice, and to consolidate a state of law and development. Efforts were necessary to combat terrorism, both in its manifestation and in its root causes. Algeria was also coordinating efforts towards building Maghreb unity. It hoped that Libya's constructive suggestions regarding the implementation of United Nations resolutions would lead to a quick solution to that country's situation.

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The Security Council has demanded that the Bosnian Serbs cease their campaign of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Herzegovina; imposed wide-ranging economic sanctions on Serb-controlled areas of the Republic; and allowed for the suspension of selected sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The Council took those actions by adopting three resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter on Friday evening.

In unanimously adopting resolution 941 (1994), the Council strongly condemned all violations of international humanitarian law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly ethnic cleansing in Banja Luka, Bijeljina and other areas controlled by Bosnian Serb forces. It demanded immediate and unimpeded access for representatives of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red cross (ICRC) to areas of concern. It also asked the Secretary-General to arrange the deployment of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops and United Nations monitors to those areas.

Resolution 942 (1994), which imposed new sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs, was adopted by 14 votes in favour to none against, with China abstaining. It strongly condemned the Bosnian Serbs for refusing to accept the territorial settlement proposed by the Contact Group, and said the sanctions would be reconsidered if they did so. The sanctions apply to "all activities of an economic nature", but the Council permitted exceptions on humanitarian grounds. It said States should freeze the financial assets of Bosnian Serbs or entities under their control. States should also prevent economic activities carried on with any entity owned by persons or entities in areas controlled by Bosnian Serbs. The sanctions will be reviewed whenever appropriate and, in any event, every four months.

The Council adopted resolution 943 (1994) by 11 votes in favour to 2 against (Djibouti and Pakistan), with Nigeria and Rwanda abstaining. It said it would suspend several economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) for an initial 100 days if the border between that country and Bosnia and Herzegovina were closed. It would suspend restrictions on air travel for civilian passengers; the impoundment of vessels, freight vehicles and aircraft; maritime traffic; sporting events; and cultural exchanges.

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The Security Council asked the Secretary-General to report every 30 days on the border closure and immediately report any evidence that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was not honouring it. Any report to that effect would terminate the suspension unless the Council decided to the contrary.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had a 40-minute meeting with United States President William Clinton in New York yesterday. They discussed cooperation between the United Nations and the United States, which the Secretary-General described as excellent. He also welcomed the announcement that the United States would pay some $1.2 billion to United Nations accounts by the end of the year.

The Secretary-General and the President discussed problem areas around the world, particularly Bosnia and Herzegovina and Haiti. The Secretary-General said he had appointed Lakhdar Brahimi as his Special Representative for Haiti, effective immediately. They also discussed the situations in Angola, Mozambique, El Salvador, the Western Sahara, and Gaza-Jericho.

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Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali today said that the Commission of Experts established by Security Council resolution 935 (1994) would thoroughly investigate allegations that members of Rwanda's Hutu community had recently been massacred. The United Nations involvement in that investigation would be coordinated by his Special Representative for Rwanda, Shahryar Khan.

Last month, a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) mission visited Rwanda to assess whether conditions existed for the safe return of refugees from Burundi, United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire. The mission had obtained certain information appearing to indicate that soldiers of the Rwandese Patriotic Front might have been engaged in systematic killings of members of the majority community in Rwanda.

The High Commissioner briefed Secretariat officials on 16 September, and the Secretary-General directed that the allegations should be taken up immediately with the Rwandese Government. That was done on 20 September, and the Government undertook to investigate the allegations urgently. A team consisting of four Government ministers, representatives of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) and the UNHCR, and a United Nations human rights monitor paid a first visit on 23 September to some of the places where the killings were alleged to have taken place.

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Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1738
27 September 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina tells General Assembly it will limit demand for lifting of arms embargo if certain conditions met; Honduras, Uruguay, Argentina, Latvia, Germany, Netherlands and Poland among other speakers in today's general debate.

+ Colombia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Romania, Norway, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Sudan, Iran and Angola among speakers in general debate yesterday.

+ Secretary-General, toasting Heads of State and Government, stresses link between peace, development and democracy; United States President hails Secretary-General's leadership and vision.

+ United Nations details payments to peace-keeping and regular budgets by Japan, Russian Federation and United States.

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Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic today said that his country would limit its demand for the lifting of the arms embargo against it if certain conditions were fulfilled. In an address to the General Assembly, he said Bosnia and Herzegovina would only seek the adoption of a formal decision whose application would be deferred for six months.

He gave the following conditions: that all United Nations resolutions on Bosnia and Herzegovina be implemented; that measures be taken to effectively monitor the border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to prevent any transport of troops or arms; that should such transport occur, the suspension of some sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would be terminated and tighter measures imposed; that there would be no further easing of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia until it recognized Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia within internationally recognized borders; that a resolution be adopted without delay to strengthen the protection of and extend the safe areas; and that certain measures be taken to end the strangulation of Sarajevo.

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President Izetbegovic said also that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) should continue to carry out its mandate. Bosnia and Herzegovina was fully committed to democracy within its internationally recognized borders with full ethnic, religious and political rights for all. The Serbs would have all rights up to the highest level of autonomy, but could not have a state within a state. The Republic also had a right to self-defense; if its compromise proposal were rejected, it would ask its friends to lift the arms embargo immediately, and even unilaterally.

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Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina told the General Assembly today that while his people had developed a democratic system, they had not escaped from the great Central American crisis of the past. Continuing problems impeded development and doomed many to extreme poverty. Since the democratic elections eight months ago, efforts had been made to address lingering problems. Faced with current challenges, a moral revolution was being launched to reform the administration of the State. Such a moral revolution meant good government, transparency, and political democracy. It meant an economy with a human face and integration with the countries of Central America.

President Reina called for a dialogue between North and South, and for international cooperation to promote peaceful development. In the past, billions of dollars had been absorbed by military confrontation; now, only limited resources were being invested in the new democracies. Those who had helped to destroy Central American nations during the cold war had a responsibility to help rebuild them. He also stressed the need to liberalize trade for the benefit of developing countries.

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Luis Alberto Lacalle, President of Uruguay, today stressed that United Nations peace-keeping operations must be carried out in full compliance with the principles of international law. Action should be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter only as a last resort, after exhausting the political means described in Chapter VI. Furthermore, action could only be taken upon the unmistakable emergence of a real threat to international peace and security. The Security Council must bear in mind the views of regional organizations and neighbouring countries. Peace-keeping operations must have a feasible and precise mandate and a realistic schedule.

The financial burden arising from peace-keeping operations could not be accepted as an excuse for decreasing development assistance, he continued. It was necessary to concentrate resources to solve the cause of the problems -- poverty and underdevelopment -- instead of their effects. He expressed concern about the deterioration of the world economy. Freedom of trade had to be realized, and it was important that the Uruguay Round of trade talks had been concluded. However, that achievement would be meaningless unless trade

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was strengthened in the future. Prompt ratification of the Marrakech Agreements was necessary to allow the World Trade Organization to come into force on 1 January 1995.

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President Carlos Saul Menem of Argentina today told the General Assembly that the two major evils plaguing the end of the twentieth century were terrorism and drug trafficking. Regarding terrorism, he was speaking with conviction and pain because of the hundreds of Argentinians who had died as a result of the recent attack on the Jewish community in Buenos Aires. He thanked the Security Council for its condemnation of that attack, and stressed that concerted action was needed to combat terrorism. The United Nations should establish a unit for that purpose. It was inadmissible that any Government should encourage terrorism, and a multilateral mechanism should be considered to tackle the question of abuses of diplomatic immunity in cases of terrorism.

President Menem reiterated Argentina's rights over the Malvinas Islands and the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, although he noted that it had a satisfactory relationship with the United Kingdom in other matters. He also expressed gratitude to Dante Caputo, a former Argentinian Foreign Minister, for his efforts to solve the Haitian crisis.

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The President of Latvia, Guntis Ulmanis, today said that with the withdrawal of Russian troops, his country was now free of all foreign forces. However, the security of Latvia and the other Baltic States was still an important concern for the international community. He stressed the importance of regional cooperation, particularly the "three plus five" model -- the three Baltic and five Nordic States. Latvia would do its utmost to promote mutual trust and understanding on the shores of the Baltic Sea.

President Ulmanis called attention to the suffering experienced in his country during the Second World War and the Soviet occupation. Latvia had lost nearly 14 percent of its population during the War, and the native population had subsequently become a minority in seven of its largest cities. The Latvian language had been under threat of extinction, and the protection of the nation's cultural heritage was now a priority. Latvia was also dedicated to the protection and promotion of human rights. The United Nations should devote a greater percentage of its regular budget to that end, he concluded.

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German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, speaking on behalf of the European Union, today urged the strengthening of the United Nations and the multilateral system for safeguarding peace worldwide. The European Union hoped to create a network of mutually supporting institutions which would include the Western European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

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(NATO) and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). All must work together to help the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) had the unreserved support of the European Union. The international community must make it clear to the Bosnian Serbs that in rejecting the peace plan they could not depend on "tacit approval." There must be no toleration of a policy of war and expulsion.

The Europe Union welcomed the idea of stand-by arrangements for United Nations peace-keeping operations, the Foreign Minister continued. Germany would be able to join in those operations as the German Constitutional Court had cleared the way for participation a few months ago. Security Council reform was an important issue which required a productive outcome, he added.

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Hans Van Mierlo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, said the prerequisites for successful action by the United Nations were credibility and legitimacy. All peoples of the world must be fairly represented in the Organization and have a fair say in decision-making. There must be a balance between burdens and benefits, and an awareness at all levels that the United Nations could make a difference. A substantial part of the growing cynicism about government stemmed from the perception of a lack of common decency -- the feeling that governments and institutions worked for their own good first and the interests of the people second.

The role of the Security Council had clearly changed, he went on to say. The yardstick for great-power status was no longer the number of nuclear bombs, but the concrete contribution a country would make to stem the tide of war, misery and poverty. For that reason, the Netherlands favoured the admission of Germany and Japan to the Council as permanent members. Equitable representation of various regions would also have to be addressed. Equally important was transparency and closer coordination between the Council and Member States. The Netherlands, for example, was the eleventh ranked contributor to the United Nations budget, yet was not involved in Council decisions. The Council could no longer operate as an exclusive club.

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Polish Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski said his country's friendly relations with its neighbours were best evidenced by the treaties it had concluded with them. In terms of regional cooperation, the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Slovak Republic and Poland had formed a non-binding structure known as the Visegrad Group which had worked out a Central European Free Trade Agreement. Poland was also striving to become a member of institutions whose membership had been determined by the logic of the divided world. It wanted to enter the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) not as a front-line State but rather as a country furthering cooperation.

Medium-sized States were a little recognized asset of the United Nations, he continued. They could form nuclei for regional integration as they could not be suspected of seeking to dominate. Poland supported the enlargement of

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the Security Council on a consensus basis and in a way that preserved its effectiveness. In Poland's view, more power to the regions, more authority to the Council, and more involvement on the part of medium-sized countries were the objectives of United Nations reform.

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The President of Colombia, Ernesto Samper Pizano, yesterday warned that "neo-protectionism" was threatening the free trade prospects of developing countries. Other threats included unemployment, the postponement of social investment plans, and the development of economic blocs which prevented free trade for all, he told the General Assembly. There was a need for new rules to enable developing countries to acquire technology, to finance their infrastructures, and to become competitive in a world where selling was more important than producing. Those aspirations must materialize in a new development model.

That new model should be an alternative to the protectionist system of the 1960s, because globalization required open and competitive economies, he continued. It should also be an alternative to the neoliberal model which looked to the market to correct all imbalances, and to the "savage capitalism" which imposed the rule of "every man for himself." The new development model must promote: the modernization of productive structures; solidarity on social issues; good governance; and cooperation in the international community based on adjusting domestic policies on the basis of global objectives.

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Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro told the General Assembly yesterday that Central America provided one of the best examples of the new wave of democracy. In less than a year, it had seen four free elections that produced new Governments. Respect for civil and political rights had been strengthened; conditions had been created for the wider enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights; and civil power was prevailing over military power. Next month, Central American countries would enter into an alliance for sustainable development, which would create a new development model to preserve the region's resources and way of life.

In the past year, Nicaragua had made great efforts to achieve a macroeconomic balance while establishing a firm foundation for sustainable development, she stated. It had made substantial progress in improving public finances and reducing inflation. Nicaragua had also re-established relations with foreign debt holders and multilateral agencies, and had carried out structural adjustment reforms. The success of that programme and the attainment of sustainable development would depend on the country's capacity to promote production and investment, increase employment and improve the quality of life of its people. The international aid received by Nicaragua would also be an important determinant.

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Armando Calderon Sol, President of El Salvador, yesterday underlined the importance of human resources development. In that regard, recent and forthcoming United Nations conferences were of major importance, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, and the World Summit for Social Development.

Reviewing developments in his own country, the President cited measures being taken to reduce poverty as part of a comprehensive approach to achieve social peace. He also reviewed measures being taken to implement the 1992 Peace Accords. However, there were some problems in the area of human rights. During a recent visit of the Commission on Human Rights Independent Experts, his Government had submitted a proposal to improve the situation of human rights in the country, which he hoped would be accepted by the Commission. Progress on matters such as land reform had been delayed because of a lack of resources. The Government was experiencing problems relating to financial aid which had not been provided, he added.

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President Ion Iliescu of Romania said yesterday that the composition of the Security Council should be reviewed in order to ensure representation for all geographical regions. A limited increase in membership would have to include Germany and Japan as permanent members, taking into account their potential contribution to United Nations activities. That should not mean the establishment of a "condominium" of the permanent members of the Council over the rest of the world. It should only mean that they assumed a higher commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The biggest threat to international peace and security was the widening gap between rich and poor States, President Iliescu said. The corrective measures undertaken so far by the international community, including development decades and various assistance programmes, had not prevented those negative tendencies. The global balance could be upset, particularly through massive population shifts, if those trends were allowed to continue. The international community must make a determined and conscientious effort to promote economic growth in developing countries. The United Nations system was the most appropriate framework for launching such a "partnership for development."

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Norway's Foreign Minister, Bjorn Tore Godal, yesterday expressed support for an even stronger United Nations role in the peaceful settlement of disputes, preventive diplomacy and the promotion of human rights. Norway also advocated the strengthening of peace-keeping activities. Member States must enable the United Nations to do in the field what they professed to support in the conference halls. Nearly 1 per cent of the entire Norwegian population had participated in peace-keeping operations, he noted. Proper communication

between the Security Council and the troop-contributing countries was particularly important, and required regular consultations and information sharing.

During the past year, the peace process had been further consolidated in the Middle East, he continued. Both Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) were determined to honour the commitments made, and the international community must also shoulder its responsibilities. He appealed to Member States for contributions, especially to meet the short-term needs of the Palestinian Authority. In its capacity as Chair of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, Norway would continue to work with donor countries and the parties themselves to ensure that the peace dividend benefited Palestinians in their daily lives.

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Lakshman Kadirgamar, Sri Lanka's Minister for Foreign Affairs, said his country stood on the threshold of a new era of tolerance and peace. In August, the Peoples' Alliance had been voted into office after 17 years in opposition in a parliamentary general election internationally acclaimed as free and fair. The poll was a victory for moderation, tolerance and unity, and demonstrated that the Sinhala people were not racists. Under the leadership of the new Prime Minister, a peaceful transition of power had been effected, defying the cynical predictions of some.

The new Government reflected the multi-ethnic, multi-religious fabric of its society, he continued. In Parliament, the Government had the support of a number of political parties, including those of the Tamil and Muslim communities. It was well poised to end the conflict in the north-east part of the country through political negotiations, as mandated by the people. The Government would pursue its quest for peace with determination. Sri Lanka's recent experience might fortify the efforts to banish prejudice and rancour among peoples elsewhere, he added.

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Christopher Haiveta, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Planning of Papua New Guinea, said new challenges called for increased multilateral diplomacy. He valued regional cooperation as a basis for stability and development cooperation, and cited Papua New Guinea's membership of the South Pacific Forum and the Melanesian Spearhead Group, as well as its association with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as a special observer. Those regional organizations had forged mutual cooperation among members. Such cooperation was evident during the recent South Pacific Forum held in Brisbane, Australia, where six countries -- Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu -- agreed to work for a common approach to logging and the export of timber.

He stated that 85 per cent of the people of Papua New Guinea lived in rural communities where the basic food and shelter needs were secured on a sustainable basis. However, various parts of the country had recently been

hit by natural disasters which had placed a severe burden on resources. He expressed appreciation for the promptness with which various Governments, including Australia, New Zealand and the United States, responded to disasters occurring in smaller island countries of the region.

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Sudanese Foreign Minister Hussain Suliman Abu Salih yesterday briefed the General Assembly on the relationship between religion and the State in his country. His Government proposed a formula which enabled the majority to choose whatever suited its cultural heritage without infringing on the rights of the rest of the population. That was why southern Sudan, which was mainly non-Muslim, was exempted from the application of Islamic laws. The allegation that the root cause of the war there was religious or ethnic was rebutted by the fact that most displaced persons moved northwards and only a few migrated outside the country. Southern representatives at the Juba Conference in May had stressed the unity of the country, and rejected the isolated agenda of the rebels.

Sudan applied the Shura as a methodology of government to ensure the universality of opinions free from tribal and sectorial fanaticism, he continued. The Shura was the overall vessel for political, developmental and social performance. The Government had established the Supreme Council for Human Rights and had given it constitutional liberty. The Justice System had been reformed to guarantee freedom of litigation, equity and the rule of law. The Government had also reinforced the role of women in the Sudan and preserved their rights. It had enabled them to occupy high constitutional, judicial, political and economic posts, he noted.

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The Foreign Minister of Iran, Ali Akbar Velayati, said yesterday that a few "self-proclaimed victors of the cold war" felt entitled to determine the course of international relations and to guide the Security Council. The transformation of the Council into an instrument to justify or enforce the policies of some permanent members was incompatible with the spirit of the Charter. A body responsible for maintaining international peace and security must not be manipulated by those "who have historically sought to serve their own self-interest at the expense of international peace."

The best example of the Council's lack of balance was its failure to deal resolutely with Israel's repeated acts of aggression against Palestine, Lebanon and Syria, he said. Under the disguise of the peace process, Israel sought to continue its occupation by repressing Muslims and its opponents. The Council's unprincipled approach to different crises was also demonstrated by its response to the aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina. For more than two years, defenceless Bosnian Muslims had been resisting ethnic cleansing and gradual annihilation. The Council had not only failed to implement its own resolutions, but had empowered the aggressors to continue

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their atrocities and deprived a Member State of its right of self-defence. The Council must lift the arms embargo against Bosnia, which most States believed to be illegal, now.

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Venancio de Moura, Angola's Minister of External Relations, said hopes for a better world had been betrayed since the end of the cold war, with the proliferation of internal conflicts and political instability. The United Nations must define guidelines to prevent the application of different criteria to the solution of different conflicts. In order to maintain the credibility of the Organization, all crises and conflicts must be given fair and equal treatment. United Nations procedures must be restructured to make them compatible with current realities

Angola's people today faced somber prospects characterized by extreme poverty because of the war imposed on them by the militaristic wing of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), he said. However, UNITA had finally accepted proposals on national reconciliation, and that was an important step towards peace. He urged the international community to continue to pressure UNITA's militaristic wing so that a comprehensive agreement could be reached. The Security Council must be ready to act immediately to avoid any pretexts for non-compliance, including sending the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) component immediately after the signing of the agreement.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali yesterday said that while the world was in a process of transition following the cold war, words and concepts were acquiring new meanings. At a luncheon in honour of Heads of State and Government attending the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, he said three words came to mind: peace, development and democracy.

The United Nations had been founded after a war between States, he continued. Today, wars happened within States, and peace had acquired a new definition. Peace between States was the work of diplomats; peace within States was the work of economists, electoral observers and human rights monitors. Peace within States was the outcome of successful policies for development and democracy, but those words were also acquiring new meanings. Development no longer meant economic growth alone -- it also had environmental and social dimensions.

The word "democracy" did not appear in the United Nations Charter, but the notion of political power based on the will of the people was central to the Organization's work, the Secretary-General said. He stressed the need for the democratization of international relations, and for broader democracy within the United Nations. Together, the international community could find new meanings for old words, and negotiate the transition from the cold war to lasting peace.

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United States President William Clinton thanked the Secretary-General for his vision and for his efforts to turn ideals into reality. He praised the Secretary-General for his outstanding leadership, and cited his use of diplomacy to prevent bloodshed and his work to promote long-term stability.

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Japan will soon make a payment of $200 million to the United Nations peace-keeping budget, bringing that country current on its accounts, a spokesman for the Organization said today. The Russian Federation made payments of $30 million in July and $20 million last week to the regular and peace-keeping budgets.

The spokesman recalled that the United States had announced payments to the United Nations totaling $1.2 billion. Of that amount, $335 million had been received on 1 September. The United States was expected to make payments of $565 million by the end of October, and $300 million by the end of the year. As of today, it owed a total of $1.17 billion in unpaid assessments.

However, the spokesman continued, the Organization owed some $1 billion to 70 troop-contributing countries, and most of the money received for the peace-keeping budget would be used up clearing those arrears.

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